



## Session II B, July 17-19, 2017

### **25. Cultural Smog and Culture Shock: Staying True to Our Mission and Values in an Era of Upheaval, Uncertainty, and Ambiguity**

The volatility inherent in our world appears to have become the new normal and challenges us to evaluate how we do business and continue to stand as intercultural leaders. Skills that have brought us this far have begun to feel inadequate to face the trials of the current climate and to accomplish the work we are deeply committed to.

This highly interactive course will focus on how we can develop the wisdom, flexibility, and empathy to adapt, thrive, and continue to be agents of change. Using a variety of methods and activities, we will explore the impact of political discourse, the media, power, privilege, racism, the social construction of race, and other elements of bias on relationships. We will examine tools that can help us have those “difficult conversations” with others about issues such as race, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, as well as the “-isms” that often make such dialogue seem impossible. Finally, we will review approaches to team development that can lead to improved cultural agility, a deepened level of intercultural engagement, and personal and organizational transformation.

**Designed for:** Those who seek to improve their intercultural impact in all areas of their lives and practices; educators, trainers, and practitioners who want to better integrate cultural agility into their practices to address systemic and institutional inequities; and practitioners interested in sharpening their skills in facilitating cultural dialogues

#### **Workshop Objectives:**

You will have the opportunity to:

- Explore the broad impact of the current climate
- Examine real world examples to demonstrate how implicit bias, fear, and a lack of intercultural agility create an environment of uncertainty and anxiety
- Understand how self-awareness, curiosity, and empathy lay the foundation for intercultural agility, the antidote to bias
- Explore the impact of intercultural agility on authentic leadership and team development
- Develop strategies to internalize the learning in a way that will have transformational impact, both personally and professionally
- Explore ways to engage humbly and constructively, to advocate for inclusion and equity in turbulent times

#### **Learning Activities:**

- Graffiti Walk
- Case Studies
- Small and large group discussions and debriefs
- Videos
- Stepping Activity
- Visuals Speak



**Carol French** of Figure 8 Consulting, LLC, has a background in education, as a counselor, teacher, curriculum developer, and cultural trainer. Her interactive style was refined in classrooms and on ropes courses where she operates with humor, guided by the philosophy that learning is best when it is experiential.

**April Lewis**, also of Figure 8 Consulting, LLC, has more than 20 year of experience in cultural agility, equity, inclusion, and intercultural organizational development. In her own dynamic style, she inspires learners with her knowledge, experience, and passion for creating cultural connections by combining humor and learning.

**Figure 8 Consulting** was founded on the principle that cultural humility is the key to cultural proficiency, and that the best intercultural work comes from the connections between the head, the heart, and the hand: what we know, how we feel, and what we do. The Figure 8 knot is a metaphor for one of our foundational principles: by creating connections with others, we are able to do together what we could not do alone.

For more information, please visit [www.intercultural.org/siic.html](http://www.intercultural.org/siic.html)  
To register, please visit [www.intercultural.org/siic-registration.html](http://www.intercultural.org/siic-registration.html)